

IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): John P. Franz et al.

Confirmation No.:

Application No.:

Examiner:

Filing Date: Herewith

Group Art Unit:

Title: ENGAGING/DISENGAGING MECHANISM

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or  
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)
- ☐ under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:  
☐ Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or  
☐ a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or  
(After the CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- ☐ under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:  
☐ Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) or (2), and  
☐ a \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).  
(Filed after final action, a notice of allowance, on or before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge to Deposit Account **08-2025** the sum of \$0.00 . At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account **08-2025** pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

☒ Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Statement together with any required copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individuals(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

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Date of Deposit **02/20/04**

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By

Typed Name: **Manish Vyas**

Respectfully submitted,

**John P. Franz et al**

By

**Manish Vyas**

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. **54,516**

Date: **02/20/04**

Telephone No.: **(281) 970-4545**

FORM PTO-1449

LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR  
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

200314068-1

APPLICATION NO.

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GROUP

## REFERENCE DESIGNATION

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Figures Appear
	1A	4,982,303	01/01/91	Krenz	
	1B	5,722,843	03/03/98	Kerckhof et al.	
	1C	5,791,753	08/11/98	Paquin	
	1D	5,829,994	11/03/98	Oda et al.	
	1E	5,915,100	06/22/99	Crump et al.	
	1F	6,099,330	08/08/00	Gundermann et al.	
	1G	6,354,164 B1	03/12/02	Megason et al.	
	1H	6,381,149 B1	04/30/02	Megason et al.	
	1I	6,498,731 B1	12/24/02	Roscoe et al.	
	1J				
	1K				

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT	Pages/Columns/Lines Where Relevant Passages/Figures Appear	Check if Translation attached
	1L					
	1M					
	1N					
	1O					
	1P					

## OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	1Q	
	1R	
	1S	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED